

First 5 School Readiness (SR) Evaluation Q & A's (December 28, 2005)

1. Can community-level data be reported for the indicators?

- A. No, outcome data reported to the State must be based on actual participant intake and follow-ups. The new evaluation contractor will work through the Center for Results to identify and include all appropriate community, regional and statewide level data in their analyses.

2. Will there be “core” participants in the new evaluation framework?

- A. In order to track child and/or family outcomes, each SR program will collect, at minimum, individual-level data (intakes and follow-ups) on the indicators jointly agreed upon by the County Commission and State Commission staff. These data will be reported to the State in aggregate form. (See question # 1)

3. How will the selection of outcomes and indicators be negotiated with the State?

- A. There will be a draft menu of outcomes and indicators distributed by January 17. County Commissions and their SR programs should carefully review the menu and determine which ones most accurately represent their most significant investments. After County staff and their SR programs have had an opportunity to review the menu, they will work collaboratively with State staff to finalize the outcomes and indicators for reporting. (See question # 5)

4. Can SR programs report data on outcomes and indicators that are not on the menu?

- A. SR programs are required to report data on **at least** one outcome/indicator, **from the menu**, for each of the four result areas. However, the State encourages additional reporting in order to present as complete a picture of investments and outcomes of the SR Initiative as possible. Please see question #7.

5. Will there be additional support for counties to help them with identifying the appropriate outcomes and indicators?

- A. State staff will be available to help Counties and SR programs. The exact process for providing this consultation is currently being developed and a draft menu of outcomes and indicators with instructions will be released by January 17. It would be very helpful if you have suggestions for this process to pass them on to your regional representative on the Evaluation Workgroup.

6. What are you considering for the length of time between intake and follow-up, will it remain 6 months?

- A. The time interval will remain the same as it is now -- data collection should occur at intake and every six months thereafter for participants who are active or at the time of termination of services. (For example, if a parent is involved in an 8 week parenting class, a follow-up should be completed when she/he completes the class, provided she/he is not enrolled in any other services.)

7. Outcomes in Early Care and Education are focused on center-based programs. To what extent are you going to consider other child development programs contributing to that result area?

- A. Outcomes in the Result Areas are not necessarily limited to center-based programs. Please contact your regional representative on the Evaluation Workgroup, before January 13, if there are specific outcomes that you feel would be useful to include on the SR Menu of Outcomes and Indicators.